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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Heavy Industry in the Magnitogorsk Area

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1. In 1948 the Magnitogorsk camp had about 1500 men, all of whom were Germans, some former non-commissioned officers in the Wehrmacht. Prisoners were billeted in stone barracks and houses erected by the inmates. The camp is located on the right bank of the Ural River and is surrounded by numerous industrial works. Medical treatment was adequate; medicines were available for only the most important needs. Washing and bathing facilities were constructed by the prisoners. Religious services were held only on the most important feast days, but the Antifa and Russian camp leaders made attendance almost impossible by their distribution of labor.

2. [REDACTED] a wire plant which manufactures wire, nails, rivets, and other iron construction materials. This fair-sized (nicht allzugrosse) factory is situated northeast of the Stalin Works, approximately 1500 to 2000 meters from its northeast corner, and is in the immediate vicinity of Camp 7617. The enterprise, a rather new one with modern equipment, was being expanded considerably while source was there.

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3. Approaching the works from the camp, one first encounters on the right-hand side a work hall which is about 40 x 25 meters in size. To the left is a new building, the purpose of which [REDACTED]. Farther down the road on the right side directly behind the first building is the largest installation, a structure approximately 130 x 25 meters, in which the main production is concentrated. The wire-drawing machines are located in this building. Across the road from the main building are an administration building and a warehouse. Coal and raw materials are brought in on the plant's own rail spur. Personnel totals about 1000 men and 8 PWs; the latter are used as doormen.

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4. [REDACTED] worked on production and building projects of the Magnitostroi Trust. This trust handles all new construction in Magnitogorsk. To it belongs a large brick works (see Attachment I), whose supplies of raw materials are seriously strained by the immense demands. While source was [REDACTED]

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Collieries II and III, at which source worked, manufactured together about 40,000 bricks a day. Colliery III was equipped with the best machines which included two modern presses. Railway spurs were available. The personnel of the firm numbered in 1948 between 700 and 800 civilians and about the same number of prisoners-of-war. The work was carried out in three shifts.

6. The trust also owns a concrete works. Its well-equipped installations are dated somewhere between 1925 and 1930. A new addition was begun in 1946, and by 1948 it was already in production. The enterprise manufactures cement and reinforced concrete building parts and mosaic floor tiles. A rail spur to this plant was under construction at the time. Work was performed during the winter in the most severe cold. As protection against the elements, boarded compartments which could be heated were erected over the work sites.

7. The iron-and steel-producing Magnitogorsk Stalin Works, reported to contain the largest rolling mill in Russia, lies parallel to the Ural River, covering an area two kilometers wide and about five kilometers long. PWs were not employed in the works, and Russian workers who had been employed by the works in jobs outside the installations were not allowed to enter the compound for spare parts without special permission. on the basis of what Russian workers had told him, that the personnel of the Stalin Works numbered about 15,000 men.

8. The freight trains used by the Stalin Works were marshalled at a freight station near the place source worked. In 1947, according to source's calculation, a freight train of 60 to 65 cars (fifty-sixty-ton cars), loaded with crude iron, bar iron, hoop iron, and tin plate, departed approximately every hour for the Kuznetsk industrial region and returned with an equivalent amount of coal and coke. Since then, the number of these trains has apparently increased. Only in exceptional cases were the trains loaded with the highly valuable Magnitogorsk iron ore.

9. The Magnitogorsk spathic iron ore contains up to 68 percent iron. The ore, extracted from open pits in a manner similar to that used in the Austrian mines in the Steiermark, is brought to the Stalin Works in electric trains. Deposits of iron ore are reported to be 35 kilometers long in the immediate vicinity of the city and 100 to 120 kilometers long outside the metropolitan area. On the average they are from four to eight kilometers wide. The treatment of ore appeared to source to be rather superficial; parts of the slag still contained 30 percent iron.

10. At the Med-Kombinat, source was assigned to work with a loading unit. The loading, which lasted up to the summer of 1947, was done from a special freight platform adjoining a railway spur located some kilometers east of the Stalin Works. Copper sheeting, in pieces of about 100 kilograms, was loaded, but copper ore was seldom loaded. Cast copper and copper ore were transported by truck from the copper mining regions near Sebai and Beimak, loaded onto freight trains. In both places the first, to raise productivity of the workers. Building two named places. was under construction. The amount of copper delivered for loading fluctuated.

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cast copper was loaded.

11.



the following new construction: new dwellings in different parts of the city; the cement works; a glass factory (interior fittings); a concrete works (new addition); the wire factory (new addition). (See Attachment I for location of plants.)

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Encls: Map of plants near Camp 7617 (Attachment I)
Map of wire factory (Attachment II)

Encl: 2 Maps

ATTACHMENTS:

- I. Map of Plants near Camp 7617 in Magnitogorsk
- II. Map of Magnitogorsk Wire Factory

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